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PSYX 250N.R01: Fundamentals of Biological Psychology

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PSYX 250 – Fundamentals of Biological Psychology

Fall 2020

Course Location and Time

Live Zoom

Instruction Information

Instructor: Stuart Hall, Ph.D.

Email: stuart.hall@umontana.edu

Office hours: Wednesday 1-3 via zoom, and by appointment

Required Text

Kalat, James W. (2013) *Biological Psychology* –12th ed. eBook

Course Guidelines and Policies

Drop Date

Beginning the 46th instructional day of the semester through the last day of instruction before scheduled examinations, [students must petition to drop](#).

Cell Phones/Laptops

Cell phones are to be turned off during class. You can use your laptop to take notes but please do not use laptops for anything other than note taking/class activities.

Academic Honesty

All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the [Student Conduct Code](#).

Disability Modifications

The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and [Disability Services for Students](#). If you think you may have a disability adversely affecting your academic performance, and you have not already registered with Disability Services, please contact Disability Services in Lommasson Center 154 or call 406.243.2243. I will work you and Disability Services to provide an appropriate modification.

Course Goals and Objectives

1. Learn the different cells that compose the central nervous system (CNS).
2. Understand how electrical and chemical events cause neurons to influence the activity of one another.
3. Learn the basic anatomy of the CNS.
4. Gain familiarity with some techniques to study the CNS.
5. Learn the anatomy and physiology of the sensory and motor systems.
6. Gain familiarity with the anatomy and physiology of complex behaviors such as sleep, anxiety, reinforcement, memory and language.

Tests/Grades

Grades will be based on the 3 best test scores (equally weighted). 89-100%=A, 79-88%=B, 69-78%=C, 59-68%=D, 58% and below=F

Test 1 covers section 1 lectures and chapters 2, 3, and 4. Test 2 covers section 2 lectures and chapters 6, 7, and 8. Test 3 covers section 3 lectures and chapters 9, 12, 13, and 14. Test 4 is an optional comprehensive final exam. The format for all tests will be 50 multiple-choice questions. A plus/minus grading system will not be used.

Make-up Policy

Make-up exams are not permitted unless a doctor's note for illness of some other formal documentation on an emergency is provided. In addition, you must contact me via email prior to the exam that you will miss the exam. The final exam is optional; grades are based on the 3 best scores. If you have to miss a scheduled exam, the final can serve as the make-up for the missed test. The final can also be used to substitute for a score on an earlier exam. In addition, because the final exam is comprehensive, it offers you the opportunity to review and master a previous section if you did not do as well as you would have liked on an earlier test.

Lectures and Reading Assignments

You will be responsible for all information from the lectures as well as the text—including material in the reading assignments not covered in class. Regular attendance is critical. Please be sure to keep up with your reading and attend lectures. Important announcements will be made throughout classes.

Course Schedule

Section	Topics, Readings, Exams	Details
SECTION 1	Topics	Neurons and Glia, Resting Potential, Action Potential, Synaptic Transmission, Drugs, Neuroanatomy, Research Methods
	Readings	Chapters 2, 3, and 4
	TEST 1: September 22	
SECTION 2	Topics	Visual System, Auditory System, Somatosensory System, Movement
	Readings	Chapters 7.1, 7.2, 6 and 8
	TEST 2: October 15	
SECTION 3	Topics	Sleep, Reinforcement, Anxiety and Aggression, Learning and Memory, Lateralization of Function, Language, Cognition
	Readings	Chapters 9, 12.2, 13 and 14.1
	TEST 3: November 17	
	Final Exam:	
	November 24 3:20-5:20	